

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 18, 1981

POLAND: Workers Killed

The killing of seven miners by government forces marks a turning point in the crisis that could presage greater violence as the regime continues to enforce martial law. Soviet forces are not taking part in the operations in Poland, and there are no indications that Soviet combat forces are preparing to depart their garrisons. On the other hand, Polish Foreign Minister Czerwinski has implied that Moscow had forced Premier Jaruzelski's hand. [REDACTED]

The official media last night reported that the seven miners had been killed and 39 injured as security forces tried on Wednesday to end a strike at a mine near Katowice. The same report said that 160 militiamen and 164 civilians had been injured in Gdansk that evening as the police stormed the Lenin Shipyard. The regime claims that the miners attacked its forces with "axes, crowbars, and stones" before they opened fire. [REDACTED]

The police yesterday also broke up demonstrations in Warsaw. In several instances, [REDACTED] police using their clubs indiscriminately. The crowd had been chanting "Solidarity" and "Walesa." (C)

Until Wednesday the regime had successfully "pacified" about 150 factories because workers had not resisted. The deaths could have an incendiary effect, encouraging some workers, even from "pacified" enterprises, to resume strikes and to resist government counteractions. The deaths almost certainly will reduce coal production as other miners stage sympathy or slowdown strikes. [REDACTED]

Widespread strikes and demonstrations in reaction to the deaths would put a severe strain on the security services. Not only could they be stretched thin, but some members might refuse to follow orders. The deaths, along with Archbishop Glemp's condemnation of martial law, will make it even more difficult, and perhaps impossible, to find a political way out of the crisis. Premier Jaruzelski's credibility will sink further. [REDACTED]

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Even if there is no further violence, the deaths will embitter relations between the regime and populace for years. The deaths of shipyard workers in Gdansk in 1970 helped cause the militancy in 1980 of Baltic Coast workers. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] yesterday [REDACTED] Polish Foreign Minister Czyrek implied that Moscow had forced Jaruzelski's hand. Czyrek said that martial law was "the last chance to solve the question by Polish hands." Other Polish sources also have told [REDACTED] that the Soviets were pressing Jaruzelski to act. The Poles may hope that such explanations will help deflect Western criticism and avert possible cutbacks in economic aid. [REDACTED]

Soviet Activity

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Soviet officials, meanwhile, are employing both threats and moderation to induce the Polish population to comply with martial law. [REDACTED] a "semiofficial" spokesman in Moscow

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has threatened military intervention by the Warsaw Pact if a general strike takes place on Saturday. A similar statement was made [REDACTED] earlier this week by another Soviet, and in each case the threat seems largely intended for Polish ears. [REDACTED]

Other Soviets have spoken more moderately, with one official telling [REDACTED] that Moscow recognizes the long-term need for "dialogue" between Solidarity and the government. TASS reported yesterday a statement by the Polish Military Council that political and economic reform will continue after order is reestablished. [REDACTED]

As long as developments in Poland remain highly fluid, Soviet statements will do little to reveal Moscow's intentions. The Soviets will use various themes in attempting to minimize Polish resistance and, at the same time, will privately urge the regime to use whatever force is necessary to establish control. [REDACTED]